

DAVID IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**('AHA KULA HO'ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: 808-586-3775 Fax: 808-586-3776

---

FOR: SB831 SD2 Relating to Education  
DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 309  
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

---

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission ("Commission") appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 831 SD2, "Relating to Education," which makes various amendments to the Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the state charter school law. These amendments include the following:

- Aligning the requirements for applying for start-up and conversion charter schools;
- Defining an "applicant governing board" for proposed new charter school;
- Amending the deadline for the Board of Education's ("Board") annual report on charter schools to the opening day of each regular session of the Legislature, to allow more time for the Commission to publish its own Annual Report using audited annual financial reports from the schools and to address time challenges with processing the latest academic data from the schools;
- Requiring the Department of Education ("Department") to provide notice to the Board when the Department considers whether to close any Department school so that the Board can consider the disposition of the facility;
- Providing students who are currently enrolled in a charter school that has been notified of the prospect of revocation, or is closing, with an enrollment priority preference at other charter schools;
- Allowing for an enrollment preference, through a weighted lottery, to educationally disadvantaged students; and

- Other housekeeping amendments.

These proposed provisions represent incremental but important improvements to Chapter 302D as the Commission, charter schools, and policymakers continue to strive to strengthen Hawaii's charter school system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**LATE**

**SB831**

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDN on Mar 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taffi Wise	KANU O KA AINA LEARNIG OHANA	Comments Only	No

Comments: The language of "simple majority" Section 2 (f) undermines authorizers best practice and intent of Act130 and Task Force work regarding Commission Establishment/Appointment narrowing a number of safeguards supported by full discussion and deliberation.

**LATE**

**SB831**

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDN on Mar 18, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ka'iulani Pahi'o	Individual	Oppose	No